



Atty. Dkt. No. 025311-0111

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tetsuro HANAWA

Title: PROJECTION ALIGNER, EXPOSING METHOD AND SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

Appl. No.: 09/986,353

Filing Date: 11/08/2001

Examiner: David B. Esplin

Art Unit: 2851

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of a document known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

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TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.113, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

JP 5-57838 was previously submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 28, 2002, however, it was not considered by the Examiner since it did not include a concise statement of relevance. The document is being resubmitted herewith with the required statement.

JP 5-57838 discloses a reduction projection aligner. The document relates to a technique to adjust the amount of the exposure by means of measuring the reflection from a wafer.

An English translation of the foreign-language document and an English language abstract is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

FEE

A fee in connection with submission of an information disclosure statement under 37 CFR §1.97(c) in the amount of \$180.00 in accordance with 37 CFR §1.17(p) is attached.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

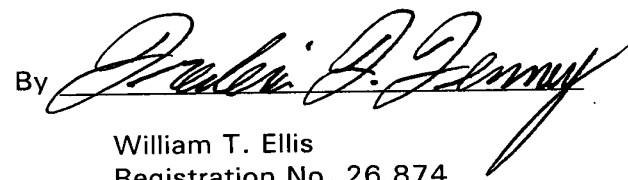
Respectfully submitted,

Date September 3, 2003

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SFP 03 2003

MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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| Substitute for form 1449B/PTO | | <i>Complete if Known</i> | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | Application Number | 09/986,353 |
| Date Submitted: SEP 03 2003 | | Filing Date | 11/08/2001 |
| (use as many sheets as necessary) | | First Named Inventor | Tetsuro HANAWA |
| Sheet | 1 | Group Art Unit | 2851 |
| | of 1 | Examiner Name | David B. Esplin |
| | | Attorney Docket Number | 025311-0111 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ⁶ |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO
PR, PCT, EPO, etc.). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the date.
⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.